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PEACE OPERATIONS AT THE WEST.

LET US HAVE PEACE. — Under this caption the *Des Moines Daily Register* thus reports a lecture on Peace. — The lecturer started out with the statement that public opinion in all ages had been the moving power in every war, and that no king or princely conqueror had ever successfully entered the field of battle with the opinion of the people adverse to him, and the cause for which he was battling. He traced the track of the bloody demon of war through all the long and dark centuries to the time when printing was first invented, when the more horrible phases of war were in a measure mitigated by the advance of civilization. Public opinion was then slowly enlightened, and the stray beams of truth that broke out here and there from the enshrouded moral gloom that covered all the nations of the earth, exerted a powerful influence in the sway of public opinion. It was that power which made and unmade kings and rulers; it made war, or it checked it: it consigned seventy thousand Christians to death in one night in France; and it had caused the death of twenty-five thousand millions of men in battle since the creation, and the expenditure and destruction of treasure sufficient to purchase twenty-five worlds like ours. He paid his respects to the debt-burdened people of the European countries, where no less than 7,000,000 men were kept as a standing army, which consumed the flower of the youth of the land, and unfitted them for any of the peaceful pursuits of life.

The foolishness of war was exhibited in that where one nation warred with another for years about an old oaken bucket, about a bar of iron, and kindred causes that would not have been creditable even for school boys of the present age to quarrel about. The wars of the past centuries had hindered civilization, and the material development of all the countries which it had scourged and cursed, and thrown them back in the grand march of improvement that God intended they should make. As to the wars of one nation alone, — England, — history recorded 266 years of bloody strife between that nation and France, from the eleventh century down to the peace of 1815. All the other European countries had similar records; and to-day their teeming multitudes are groaning under the burdens of taxation entailed upon them by the fiend of war. Standing armies caused ten wars where they prevented one, as had been proved by the records of all nations, and were the means of draining the countries that kept them of at least eighty per cent. of the money raised for public purposes by taxation.

That war is cruelly wrong in this enlightened age is known by every enlightened Christian. The Holy Scriptures teach peace always, and all its apostles and the Son of God practiced it while on earth. Therefore, it is the duty of every one professing to be a follower of Him that died on the cross to oppose by all moral effort the butchering of brother by brother, to the end that from every hill-top, valley and glen, in the ages to come, the glad song of "Peace on earth, good will to men," shall ascend from the hearts of all earth's millions. To accomplish this result public sentiment must be Christianized, from every pulpit must be preached the gospel of peace, from every paper must come the council that war is wrong, and to forgive is manly as well as godly. With these influences at work the day is not far in the future that would witness the glad time when nations shall know war no more forever.

The lecturer favored a Congress of Nations, where all difficulties between them could be settled, as are the differences between neighbors in our local courts. It is thought by the ablest men of different nations, that this would be perfectly practicable, and would be fraught with a thousand rich blessings to mankind. A Congress of Nations, or something of that kind, which should be a permanent tribunal, where the mind, which alone has a sense of right, there is no sense of right or wrong in the muscles, or in powder or lead, could determine all international questions. This would do away with the necessity for standing armies, and in doing away with this necessity, it would reduce the expenses of government at least one half.

The mission of the peace societies is not to stop war at its outbreak, for that is perhaps impossible, but it is their mission to sow broadcast all over the land tracts that treat of the great evil, and by educating the public sentiment in that way, and by the help of the pulpit and the press, prevent the wars of

twenty, thirty and forty years hence. An ounce of prevention is worth several pounds of cure in this case. The society which he represented had scattered through the land during the year over two millions of pages of tracts, were issuing seventy-seven different volumes by eminent authors treating on the subject, and had now men engaged in several States in furthering the cause. The lecturer made a very plain and practical illustration of the expenses of the war system of our own government, showing that \$149,000,000 had been expended in the year 1868; and showing what could have been done with that amount if applied to the purposes of civilization, and the education of the unlearned masses. His lecture was well received by the audience; and the maxim Let us have Peace, as expressed by our Chief Magistrate, was the hope and wish of all present.

GENERAL ITEMS.

METHODIST BOOK CONCERN— is a vast establishment, its assets amounting to \$1,165,625 above all its liabilities, and its earnings last year \$152,383.

POPULATION OF CHINA— would seem hardly credible. In 1842 it amounted to 414,000,000, and in 1852 was reported to be 537,000,000; more than all Europe, and North and South America combined; increasing, too, at a greater rate than any part of the world except our own country. This last report, however, we cannot well believe—123 millions, in crease inten years; but China doubtless contains nearly, if not quite, two-fifths of all the people on the globe.

TELEGRAPHS.—There are at least 28,000 miles of wires in the United States, all but 4,000 held by the Western Union Telegraph Company.

RAIL-ROADS IN THE UNITED STATES.—There are 40,000 miles in round numbers, giving employment, it is estimated, to nearly half a million men.

PREVALENCE OF CRIME.—There were in March, 1869, thirteen prisoners confined in the Tombs of New York charged with murder, four of them women! Yet we now and then hear even Christian ministers, Doctors of Divinity, congratulating the public on the high and hopeful tone given to our morals by our Rebellion War! What weather-cocks some of our religious teachers are, not directing public opinion, but serving mainly to show which way the wind blows. Accustomed so long to laud "our brave soldiers," and repeat, parrot-like, the stale self-glorifications so current during the rebellion, they still keep up the old strain, while three-quarters of the convicts in our largest States-Prisons were, one or two years after the rebellion, profligates and villains gathered from our "patriotic soldiers," our "boys in blue."

AGRICULTURE OF ENGLAND.—Official returns of British agriculture show that the total number of acres under tillage and pasturage last year in the United Kingdom was, 45,652,000, which is an increase of 265,000 acres over 1867. This increase, however, is thought to be due to more comprehensive returns of pasturage. Of the whole number of acres, 11,659,000 were under grain crops, 4,865,000 under green crops, 984,000 under bare fallow, 5,690,000 under grass, and 22,164,000, or nearly one-half of the whole, under permanent pasturage. Compared with 1867, there was an increase of 227,000 acres of grain, and a decrease of 170,000 upon green crops. A marked advance is shown in the number of cattle and sheep. In the United Kingdom the total increase in cattle amounts to 852,000. In Great Britain the increase is 430,000; but there is a decrease of 82,000 in Ireland. The number of sheep in the United Kingdom is larger in 1868 than in 1867 by 1,790,000. The increase occurred exclusively in Great Britain, the number of sheep in Ireland showing scarcely any difference in the two years. As regards pigs, there is a decrease to the extent of 1,032,000 for the United Kingdom.

BRITISH COMMERCE.—Tables recently published show that the export commerce of Great Britain for 1868 fell off, as compared with that of the year preceding, to the extent of 1,498,279 pounds sterling. Seventy-two per cent of the exports of the year went to foreign countries, twenty-eight per cent to

British possessions. The exports to the United States, being 21,825,703 pounds in 1867, amounted to 21,410,184 pounds in 1868. This is a greater amount than was shipped to any other country. The next best customer of England is India, which in 1868 took goods to the amount of 21,211,343 pounds.

KINDRED ENTERPRISES.

LIBERALITY TO BRUTES.—This may seem a novel designation, but is hardly so unique as the reality it represents. Within a year or two there has sprung up among us a new type of benevolence in the sudden formation of societies "for the prevention of cruelty to animals." A few such societies had already existed in England, and on the continent of Europe; but not one of them had done enough to call forth a periodical as its organ to plead its claims, while the Massachusetts society in 1868 started its paper with no less than 200,000 copies, and is said now to have, chiefly in this State, a circulation of some 15,000. Most societies have had slowly to struggle their way into a public recognition of their claims; but this one seems to have leaped at once into notoriety and popular favor. We had scarcely heard of its existence when there stood before the public an imposing array of its active supporters or responsible endorers. Men of wealth, ladies of fashion, the élite of society from our Governor down to our lesser notabilities in every part of the State, were announced as officers, patrons, or members, with their donations of \$25, \$50, \$100 and \$500 each.

We rejoice much in this new, unique liberality to brutes, and only regret that a liberality far greater and more spontaneous has not been bestowed upon objects incomparably more important. "How much," said our Saviour, "is a man better than a sheep." Yet the American Board, the first foreign missionary society in this country, found much difficulty in securing from even a Massachusetts legislature a charter that would give Christians legal leave to evangelize the heathen, while the same legislature, some sixty years later, seemed eager to grant the friends of "our dumb animals" a charter that allows them to hold property to the amount, we believe, of \$200,000. Even the Boston police, so notoriously reluctant to enforce some of our most important laws, were set gratuitously at work in aid of this society.

But stranger than all is the fabulous liberality shown to this new movement. The second annual report (1868) of the New York Society contained a long list of donors from \$1,000, \$500, many of \$100, and others down to \$5, leaving "a balance of \$14,222,92." The society would come into possession of a fund not far from \$400,000 by various bequests. One gentleman on Long Island bequeaths the fabulous sum, considering the objects of the society, of \$200,000. Mr. Bergh gives \$100,000, payable after his death, and the rest is made up of legacies varying from \$5000 to \$20,000 each." All must commend such kindness to animals; but, in view of Christ's estimate of man as infinitely more valuable, there is not a hundredth or a thousandth part as much reason for liberality to this cause as there is for the great Christian reform which seeks to do away the custom of war, a custom that has for so many thousand years drenched the earth with human blood, and filled so many millions on millions of its homes with poverty, bereavement and lamentation.

WHAT INTEMPERANCE COSTS.—Mr. Welles, our commissioner, estimates the amount of liquor sales in a single year at \$1,483,491,000, nearly 1,500 millions, or \$43 for every man, woman and child, more than half as much as our national debt, and nearly as much as the value of all our railroads, which is put at \$1,654,080,779.

The 3,000 grog-shops of Cincinnati sell, on an average, 100 glasses each of liquor daily, which, at ten cents a glass, amounts to \$30,000 a day, or \$10,950,000 a year.

INTEMPERANCE AND CRIME.—Pennsylvania has a criminal and pauper population of 24,000, nine-tenths from intemperance, maintained at a cost of \$2,256,910.66.—The *Religious Telescope* says that during the last twelvemonth, nineteen hundred arrests were made at Dayton, Ohio, of which, at least, nine out of ten, it is believed, were directly traceable to the use of liquor, and probably more than half of the remainder were due, indirectly, to the same cause.—Mr. Haynes, warden of

the Massachusetts State Prison, in his valuable book, recently published, says that, during the eleven years that he has been connected with the institution, twenty-one persons have been imprisoned for killing their wives, two for killing their fathers, and one for killing his mother. Of these twenty-four, all but one were not only habitual drunkards, but actually drunk when they committed the crime. And he also remarks that "these were not bad men, except when under the influence of liquor; and yet justice can make no distinction, but holds him equally guilty who commits crime under such circumstances as the one who soberly and with intellect unclouded violates the law."

HOME MISSIONARY EFFORTS IN CITIES.—The Methodists of New York have taken a grand step in the work of evangelizing their city. About thirty prominent clergymen and laity met at the house of J. B. Cornell, Esq., to consider the condition of the masses, and the duty of the Church. It was determined to raise *half a million of dollars* for purchasing sites and erecting chapels. One fifth of it, one hundred thousand dollars, was at once subscribed. Within three years, they have started fourteen mission schools, with about 4,000 pupils, gathered 1,200 converts into churches, erected four chapels, and raised \$175,000. A church is projected, to cost \$60,000, as the outgrowth of one of these chapels.

LIBERAL EDUCATION FOR NEGROES.—Arrangements for this purpose are in progress throughout the South. There is the Howard University in Washington, a kindred university opened at Atlanta, Ga., last October, under favorable auspices, and like institutions in many other States. Freedmen are quite likely to outstrip ere long the mass of "poor whites" at the South.

LOSS OF FRIENDS OF PEACE.—Our cause has recently lost several distinguishing friends, whose decease we record in much sorrow, esteem and affection.

CHARLES DEXTER CLEVELAND, LL.D., long a Vice-President of our Society, a man of strong native powers, high culture, and varied learning, for many years a very successful educator, and an author of educational works held in high estimation, an ardent friend of Peace, and of nearly every Christian Reform, died in Philadelphia suddenly of heart-disease last September, at the age of 67.

ROBERT WATERSTON, Esq., a Life-Director of our Society, a liberal contributor to its funds, and leaving to it at his decease a legacy of \$1,000, a true man of peace, widely esteemed and beloved, a warm, genial and generous spirit, died in October at an advanced age in Boston.

JOSEPH ADDISON COPP, D.D., an active officer of our Society, and at the time of his death Chairman of its Executive Committee, a very valuable coadjutor in our cause, on whose judgment and good sense we could always rely with great confidence, "an Israelite indeed" without guile and without an enemy, respected, trusted and loved by all who knew him, a man remarkably perfect in his whole character, died with scarce a moment's warning in Chelsea, Mass., Nov. 7, at the age of 65. "Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright; for the end of that man is peace."

REV. W. H. BONNER.—Mr. Bonner, long an able and popular lecturer of the London Peace Society, died at the age of 59, while on a lecturing tour in the West of England. He seemed to have been "specially adapted to his mission. He would rivet the attention of large audiences for hours until he convinced the major part of them, and those who heard him will not forget his zeal and earnestness. His labors of late had been chiefly among the industrial classes.

CHRISTIANITY THE ONLY PLEDGE OF PEACE.—"Infinite radicalism," says the *Christian Statesman*, "will never reduce this belligerent world of ours to peace, notwithstanding the hopes inspired by international congresses like the Congress of Peace and Liberty, which recently held its third annual session at Lausanne, in Switzerland. The discussion of important questions at these assemblies cannot fail to be productive of great good. But the movement which will ultimately succeed in making wars to cease to the ends of the earth and secure liberty to every man, will not ignore the Church of the